

# news

CTC'S ANALYSIS OF  
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN  
THE CYCLING WORLD

PAGE 46 THE BACKGROUND TO CTC'S ROAD JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



Paul Kitson of Slater & Gordon LLP, who are sponsoring CTC's Road Justice campaign

## Coming up



### KILLER DRIVER AVOIDS PRISON PAGE 8

The driver who killed CTC member Audrey Fyfe (left) got 300 hours community service. CTC has urged an appeal



### SUMMER SKILLS SESSIONS PAGE 10

CTC members receive 15% discount on mountain bike skills sessions at Dalby Bike Barn in North Yorks



### CTC'S 2012 AWARD WINNERS PAGE 16

Lowri Evans of Chester and North Wales was named CTC Volunteer of the Year 2012 at the National Dinner in May



## STANDING UP FOR CYCLISTS

Slater & Gordon Lawyers are sponsoring CTC's new Road Justice Campaign. CTC Road Safety Campaigner **Rhia Weston** explains

**CTC IS** proud to announce that Slater & Gordon Lawyers (formerly Russell, Jones and Walker) are to sponsor our Road Justice campaign in 2013/2014. The sponsorship agreement will help CTC execute a powerful national campaign.

The aim of the Road Justice campaign is to highlight and address the inequity of the justice system's handling of serious road collisions involving cyclists. More specifically, the campaign aims to improve collision investigations, charging and prosecution decisions, and sentencing of bad drivers to ensure road crash victims receive justice. These goals complement Slater & Gordon's objective to improve access to justice for all.

Through this partnership, CTC is able to draw on Slater & Gordon's experience of the poor handling of bad driving by the justice system, so that CTC can better understand the complex issues

that cyclists face when encountering the system.

CTC and Slater & Gordon Lawyers have a long relationship: Slater & Gordon have represented CTC members for over a decade and operate the CTC Accident Line, which, over the last four years, has undertaken over 1,300 personal injury claims and resulted in more than £2.9 million being recovered in damages for CTC members. Slater & Gordon have a specialist cycling team, many of whom are cyclists themselves, and so fully understand the issues that cyclists face.

CTC's Accident Line has the highest reputation for handling injury compensation cases, and the latest satisfaction survey carried out amongst CTC members showed that 100% of members are satisfied with the service they receive. Access to this legal cover and help from CTC's Accident line is

included in the annual CTC membership fee.

CTC member Nick Black, who lost a leg after being hit by a bus driver whilst cycling in 2011, said of Paul Kitson, Practice Group Leader for Serious Injuries at Slater & Gordon, 'He was so supportive and did a pretty amazing job for me. I know you could say that's what he is paid to do but it was so unexpected at first'

Paul Kitson said: 'Slater & Gordon are delighted to be able to support the CTC's Road Justice Campaign. Effective handling of road traffic collisions with cyclists, from investigation to prosecution and sentencing, will improve cycle safety and encourage more cycle journeys in the UK.'

**For more information on this campaign, see the feature on p46.**

# KILLER DRIVER AVOIDS PRISON

**Following the** unlawful killing of 75-year old CTC member Audrey Fyfe, CTC has called strongly for an appeal against the scandalous sentence handed to driver Gary McCourt, who had killed another cyclist 26 years previously.

Mrs Fyfe was hit by McCourt while riding her bike near her home in Edinburgh in August 2011. McCourt was convicted of causing her death by 'careless' driving. He had admitted 'clipping' her wheel but had pleaded not guilty, arguing in effect that the incident was



CTC's Gordon Seabright joined Ann Dalgity and Ian Fyfe to urge an appeal of the sentence

merely an accident, not a crime. It then emerged that McCourt had previously killed another cyclist, George Dalgity, in 1985, through 'reckless driving'. He fled the scene, as he only had a provisional licence – he was also driving without L-plates or supervision – and no insurance. For this, he had served eight months of a one-year prison sentence.

Yet in the more recent case, Sheriff James Scott declined to impose either

a custodial sentence or a lifetime driving ban, noting McCourt's remorse and the fact that Audrey Fyfe had not been wearing a helmet at the time. CTC argues that not only were the sheriff's remarks made without having heard any evidence about what difference a helmet might have made, but also that they were legally irrelevant, as his role was merely to decide on the criminal culpability of McCourt's driving.

CTC Chief Executive Gordon Seabright joined Ian Fyfe, Audrey's widower, and Ann Dalgity, George Dalgity's sister, to hand in a letter to Scotland's Lord Advocate, urging him to initiate an appeal of the sentence. As we went to press, over 3,500 members had emailed the Procurator Fiscal's office in support of CTC's campaign.



Audrey Fyfe with daughter Aileen Brown, who approached CTC for help securing justice for her mother

## CTC Council needs you

**IT'S NOMINATION** time again for five positions on CTC Council. CTC Council is the body elected by you to govern CTC and ensure that what we do benefits cycling. Councillors are elected for a three-year period to represent the members in their region. Nominations are now sought for councillors to represent the South West, North East, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland and overseas regions on 1 January 2014. Nomination forms are available on the CTC website and from National Office and must be returned by 12 August 2013.

CTC has a diverse membership and it is important that this diversity is reflected on CTC Council. So whatever your professional or cycling background, you could be just the right person for the role. Council can assist those who want to stand but need help contacting other members to back their nomination.

**If you want to know more about the role, visit the CTC website, or talk to an existing Councillor (details on p78) or the Chief Executive at CTC National Office.**



## FROM THE CHAIR OF CTC

### David Cox

The CTC AGM and annual Awards Dinner rotates around the UK, and it's always a mixture of business and pleasure. This year we were in Guisborough on the edge of the North York Moors.



It was a great weekend, which started on the Saturday morning with a Member Groups seminar. There were lively discussions on issues like 'publicising your rides', 'local campaigning', 'the welfare officer role and safeguarding' and 'insurance cover', which will be considered by the Member Group Steering Group and fed back to Council to improve our policies and practice.

The AGM decided on formal motions, with interesting discussions about improving the Highway Code and making much better use of the large highway maintenance budget to improve roads and junctions for cyclists.

At the dinner, graced by the Worshipful Mayor of Redcar and Cleveland and transport expert Christian Wolmar, we heard from David Shields about Yorkshire's CTC-supported bid to hold the Grand Départ of the 2014 Tour de France. He described a fascinating meeting of minds between the Tour organisers and the people of Yorkshire.

The Awards were fun as always, and it was great to see some young enthusiasts from Hertfordshire picking up trophies for their commitment to riding, as well as organising events.

Next day, we were off with our hosts, CTC Teesside, exploring three of their favourite rides – the coast, the moors, and a longer trip to Coxwold for the Annual Cyclists' Service.

Next year's AGM is in Glasgow. I think we now have a model for the AGM weekend, balancing discussion, formal business, celebration and social cycling. We can build on this for the future.

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK



Photo: ATOC

**THE ATOC** National Cycle-Rail Awards open for entries on 28 May. The Awards recognise the progress made by those working to integrate cycling and rail travel.

Cyclists and cycle campaigners

are encouraged to nominate others and submit entries. This year there are 10 categories, ranging from Innovation to Station of the Year. And there are two Madison GoPro cameras up for grabs for the best two cycle-rail

photographs.

In 2012, Paul Best from Southern Railway won the Cycling Champion Award, with his nominator stating: 'Paul has done much more than install cycle parking – he has created a sustainable cycle-rail network.' When asked what it meant to win the Award, Paul said: 'It's an honour, especially as it is nationwide. It proves that if you put the effort into making cycle facilities available at rail stations it is recognised.'

**Visit the Cycle-Rail Awards website at [cycle-rail.co.uk](http://cycle-rail.co.uk) to find out all the categories and apply. The closing date for entries is 13 September.**

## SIGN UP FOR CYCLECLIPS

CTC's free weekly email newsletter: email your membership no. to [membership@ctc.org.uk](mailto:membership@ctc.org.uk)



Photo: Sheila Simpson

CTC Cycling Holidays and Tours is run entirely by volunteers

## Working holidays

**CTC CYCLING** Holidays and Tours is seeking volunteers to step into key roles, due to the phased retirement of those currently working for the company. A background in the tour operating sector of the travel industry, both in administrative and senior management categories, is desirable.

The business plan of the company, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of CTC, the national cycling charity,

is being prepared for the next five to ten years. This will include recruiting new staff and the development of updated booking systems.

**If you or someone you know might be interested in joining this proficient business, which is run entirely by volunteers, please contact Jim Maynard on 01732 883367 for an initial, informal discussion any time Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm.**

## Summer skills sessions

**CTC MEMBERS** are eligible for a 15% discount on off-road skills sessions run by Dalby Bike Barn, CTC's National Centre of Excellence, in North Yorkshire's Dalby Forest. Courses are available for all levels of rider, whether you'll be riding on gentle bridleways or Alpine descents. Named for the grades of trail they'll equip you to tackle, the courses are: Green Around The Gills (beginner skills), Beyond The

Blue (core skills), Rule The Red (technical skills) and Black Magic (advanced skills). The day-long courses cost £99 (before discount) and are available for mixed groups, women only, and younger riders only. Bespoke courses are also offered. You'll need your membership card to claim your discount. For details, visit [dalbybikebarn.co.uk](http://dalbybikebarn.co.uk), email [dalby@ctc.org.uk](mailto:dalby@ctc.org.uk) or call 01751 460537.

Improve your technique and confidence with a skills course at Dalby Bike Barn



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ► PRESUMED LIABILITY FOR SCOTLAND'S DRIVERS?

CTC Scotland is supporting a campaign initiated by law firm Cycle Law Scotland for the introduction of 'presumed liability' rules. Injured pedestrians and cyclists would be presumed to be entitled to compensation from the driver (or, in practice, the driver's insurers) unless it was clear that they had been at fault. This proposal only affects compensation in civil law, not criminal liability, which would continue to be decided as at present. Hence it is in not a breach of the legal principle of 'innocent until proven guilty'.

### ► BIG BIKE FUNDING BIDS

Urban and rural councils in England have been putting together bids for Government funding to promote cycling in cities and in national parks. In February, the Government announced a £30m Cycle City Challenge Fund, to be allocated to two or three cities whose bids show real ambition to transform conditions for cycling, with annual spending levels of about £10 per person. At the same time, a £12m fund was announced for bids to promote cycling in England's national parks. CTC hopes that further Government funding will be made available by George Osborne's Comprehensive Spending Review.

### ► CTC MEMBERS LEAD WAY

CTC members in North Wales helped a sustainable transport consultancy get people to try cycling this spring. John Holiday and Roy Spilsbury of Chester and North Wales CTC led the new cyclists from North Wales Housing Association (NWH) on a seven-mile lunchtime ride along the Conwy coast. It came about because CTC member Gary Cummins works for the consultancy, JMP, who were engaged by NWH to promote active travel. He suggested to his project manager, Rhian Lewis, that she approach the CTC Member Group. Lewis also oversaw a two-week active travel challenge programme, with staff travelling to work as sustainably as possible by walking, cycling, car-sharing or using public transport.

Photo: courtesy of the Forestry Commission